Disinvestment of PPL

1480. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sold their 74 per cent equity in the Public Sector Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL) to Zuari Group Company;

(b) if so, at what price and what was the method of calculating the value;

(c) whether any agreement was made with regard to the fate of its workers, payment of their wage and other statutory arrears, if any, and the liabilities of the company; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The price was Rs. 151.70 crore. The valuation of shares of a company under disinvestment is done through the standard methodologies namely Discounted Cash Flow, Transaction Multiples, Balance Sheet (Net Asset Value Methodology) and the Asset Valuation. In the case of PPL also, the valuation was made using methodologies.

(c) and (d) The Shareholders' agreement provides that the strategic partner shall cause the Company to honour all the outstanding contracts and commitments and ensure timely payment of all the existing debts and / or liabilities of the Company outstanding as on the Closing Date. In addition, the agreement provides for specific clauses for protection of the interest of the employees, which are indicated in the Statement *(See* below). The successful bidder has committed in writing that it would, within 30 days of becoming a strategic partner, implement the pending wage^ay revision prospectively and further that discussion regarding payment of arrears would be initiated immediately and modalities of payment of arrears finalised within 90 days.

Statement *Extracts from the Shareholders'*

Agreement Recitals

F. The. Parties have agreed that all / Employees (defined hereinafter) of the Company on the date hereof will continue in the employment of the Company.

G. The Strategic Partner recognizes that Government in relation to its employment policies follows certain principles for the benefit of the members of the Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribes, Physically handicapped persons and other socially disadvantaged categories of the society. The Strategic Partner shall use its best efforts to cause the Company to provide adequate job opportunities for such persons. Further, in the event of any reduction in the strength of the employees of the Company, the Strategic Partner shall use its best efforts to ensure that the physically handicapped persons are retrenched at the end.

Articles:

Article 4.4 Approval of Matters

(a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Agreement or in the Articles of Association or otherwise permitted under the Act, no obligation of the Company or any of its subsidiaries shall be entered into, no decision or the determination shall be made and no action shall be taken by or with respect to the Company or any of its subsidiaries in relation to the matters identified in Schedule I, unless such obligation, decision or action, as the case may be, is approved;

(i) If at any meeting of the Company's shareholders duly called for the purpose of considering such obligation, decision or action, then subject to the provisions of sub-clause 4.8 (e), by the affirmative vote of the Government cast at such meeting;

(ii) If at any meeting of the Board, then subject to the provisions of sub-clause 4.3 (f) by the affirmative vote of at least one nominee director of the Government (or, in the case of Board

resolutions by circulation by the approval to such resolution in writing by at least one nominee director of the Government).

SCHEDULE I

Matters Requiring Special Consent

(XXV) For 5 (five) calendar years after the Closing Date, any adverse change in the pay scales or in the pension or retirement benefits to Employees of the Company as of the Closing Date from the pay scales or pension or retirement benefits available to such Employees as of the Closing Date.

Article 5.6 Sale of Equity Shares to the Employees of the Company

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in Clauses 5.1 (b) and 5.3, Government shall at its sole discretion at any time after the lapse of 6 (six) months from the Closing Date, have the option of selling from its shareholding, Equity Shares representing not more than 5% (five per cent) of the Restructured Equity Share Capital of the Company, to the Employees of the Company in the manner as decided by the Board. In the event that Government exercises its option to sell part of the Equity Shares held by it to the Employees, the Employees shall be issued fresh share certificates for the Equity Shares transferred to the Employees if such Equity Shares are not held in a dematerialized form. The Parties agree that upon the completion of transfer, the Equity Shares transferred to the Employees pursuant to this Clause 5.6 shall not be subject to any restrictions in this Agreement, whether by way of a voting arrangement or a right of first refusal.

7.2 Principal(s) and Strategic Partner's Representations, Warranties and Covenants

Article 7.2 (e) Each of the Strategic Partner and the Principal (s) shall not retrench any Employees of the Company for a period of 1 (one) year from the Closing Date other than any dismissal or termination of Employees of the Company from their employment in accordance with the applicable staff regulations, standing orders of the Company and applicable Law; provided however, that after the aforesaid period of 1 (one) year no retrenchment of an Employee

shall be undertaken unless the affected Employee is given benefits that are equal to or exceed the Maximum Benefit;

(f) Subject to sub-clause (e) above any restructuring (including any reduction) of the employee force of the Company shall be implemented in the manner recommended by the Board and in accordance with applicable laws and he Strategic Partner and Principal (s) shall ensure that the Company offers to the Employees, an option to voluntarily retire on terms that are not, in any manner less favourable than Maximum Benefit;

Maximum Benefit defined in Article 1.1 reads as "Maximum Benefit shall mean employee benefits which are the higher of (a) the terms of the voluntary retirement scheme as provided by the Department of Public Enterprises (Government of India) guidelines and applicable to the Company on the Closing Date or (b) the terms of the voluntary retirement scheme as applicable to the Company on the Closing Date."

Reserved price of Jessop and Company Ltd.

1481. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether replacement cost of Jessop and Company Ltd. (JCL) assets was estimated to be Rs. 140.94 crore as on 31st March, 1995 as per L.B. Jha's report on stock audit;

(b) whether the cost of a similar greenfield project was estimated to be Rs. 350 crore as per the same report;

(c) if so, whether the above cost was taken into consideration before fixing the reserve price of JCL for disinvestment; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) In every case of disinvestment, the Advisor estimates the valuation of the company based on standard methodologies including the asset valuation method. This estimate is, however, made as on a date close to the time of disinvestment. In the